

Ansonia Fire Dept

Eagle hose H&L Co 6

To all the General Assembly Members,

I am deeply troubled by the proposed Budget cuts and defunding that will, without question hurt the Regional Fire Training Facilities throughout Connecticut.

As you may or may not be aware the greater majority of Fire Departments in our State are of a Volunteer Nature. The Regional Schools are the single most important asset that these Dept's have with respect to providing real time, high quality, OSHA mandated Firefighter Training.

This Training is vital as Firefighting is not a hobby for Volunteer Fire Companies in this State.

Training is the single most important aspect of a Firefighting Career, be it with a Volunteer or Career Department. The Citizens and Businesses of this State deserve the highest quality of Emergency Responders that this State can provide. Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Responders are the most basic, necessary and relied upon Services provided to our Communities. All three of these groups use the Regional Fire Training Facilities in one manner or another to provide Training to their People.

As a Firefighter in Ansonia, CT for 25 years and a State of Connecticut Certified Fire Service Instructor for 15 years and having served on the Board of Directors for the Valley Fire Chiefs Regional Fire Training School I have seen the value of Regional Training assets. I have served in the capacity of Fire Instructor for both Career and Volunteer Fire Departments in both New Haven and Fairfield Counties that have used this School.

As Legislators for our great State of Connecticut you have been Elected and entrusted with making Responsible, Rational and Righteous decisions for your Constituents. Those Constituents are made up of both the Citizens that need the Life and property protection of our Emergency Responders and, the Responders that need Quality Firefighting Training to protect both themselves and the Citizens of our State.

It is my opinion that you have a deep responsibility to oppose this defunding of our Regional Fire Training Schools in the most adamant manner that you can. It is your responsibility to afford us all the most highly Trained First Responders that the State of Connecticut can possibly provide. Thank you for your Service.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas D. Owen
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Fire Service Instructor
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